

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A collapsible filter element for a transcatheter embolic protection device, the filter element comprising:

a collapsible filter body which is movable between a collapsed stored position for movement through a vascular system and an expanded position for extension across a blood vessel such that blood passing through the blood vessel is delivered through the filter element;

a proximal inlet portion of the filter body having one or more inlet openings sized to allow blood and embolic material enter the filter body;

a distal outlet portion of the filter body having a plurality of outlet openings sized to allow through-passage of blood, but to retain embolic material within the filter body;

the distal outlet portion of the filter body in the region of the outlet openings having means for reducing shear stress on blood passing through the outlet openings.

- 2-73. (Canceled)

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER <sup>LLP</sup>

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com